

Friends of Stara Woods AGM held at the Manor House Inn Rilla Mill 5 November 2017 at 11pm

Present:

Cathy Brunsdon, Laurence Smith, Anne Hughes, Jen Bousfield, Pete Bousfield, Mike Todd, Simon Humphreys, Dai Jones, Cheryl Wiseman, Malcolm and Anne Butters

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Fran Jones, Chrissie Mulberry, Helen Skidmore, Mike Wright and Family

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2016 were approved as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Laurence, seconded by Anne.

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 Charitable status: Friends of Stara Woods do not have the required income to obtain charitable status but we can apply for a charity number. This item is being progressed. Need to prepare a statement of charitable intent. **Laurence still to action**
- 3.2 Notter Wood. We had considered taking over the management of this wood but have been waiting for all the owners to be in the UK. Simon is now suggesting that the woods could be sold to a neighbour who would maintain the current access and the dormouse scheme. Stara would benefit from an increase in funding as a result of the sale. We agreed this was a preferable to taking on the management of the wood. **Simon** to investigate. This item is being progressed.

4 Chair's Report

- 4.1 Simon presented his report which outlined Stara activities over the past twelve months.
- 4.2 Simon reported that as the woods have become so popular over the past year the work we have undertaken has been largely a reaction to problems with paths, parking or dogs.
- 4.3 Helen Skidmore has been our artist in residence. An exhibition of her work was held at STERTS gallery and a 'draw and dress' day in the woods in December which proved very popular. Ellen Smart held a 'pagan pathways' exhibition in November. Following the success of these events we are hoping to attract more artistic events to the woods.

- 4.4 The Stara Woods benefit concert at Upton Cross Village Hall in November (a farewell event to the old hall) raised £320. We attended the Bean Pole Day in April at Pentiddy
- 4.5 We received a donation of £300 from the Druid Network who visit the woods every year. We are hoping to use the donation to replace the chestnut gates at the entrance to Stara. Malcolm offered to make a new gate using chestnut from Stara. Thanks to Malcolm.

5 Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 Treasurer's reports for Friends of Stara Woods and Stara Community Woodland Ltd were tabled.
- 5.2 Laurence reported that Stara received £1500 income over the past year. Approximately £376 has been spent to date on the new shelter and there will be additional expenditure to complete the job. Running costs were £386.20 this year
- 5.3 Anne proposed a vote of thanks to Laurence for his work throughout the year. Jen seconded.

6 Membership Report

- 6.1 The membership report was tabled. Only 1 new member this year, we should be aiming for about 10. Laurence has sent a list of those on the membership list that have not paid subs. Agreed we would ask **Chrissie** to chase up.
- 6.2 Anne proposed vote of thanks to Fran. Laurence seconded.

7 Working Party Report

- 7.1 Simon reported that we had good attendance from regulars and some new faces.
- 7.2 Bridge Inspections: Mike proposed that we move to 3 monthly bridge inspections, this was agreed.
- 7.3 Some of the trees planted behind the shelter have survived – agreed we need to create a destination view point in this area. To be considered once the shelter is completed. Risk assessment forms are now being completed prior to each working party.
- 7.3 Health & Safety: No accidents reported on working parties. Agreed we need to keep improving the risk assessments.
- 7.3 Pentiddy Community Woodland. It was agreed we would organise a 'working party away day to Pentiddy to help with cutting back trees

infected with 'Ash Die Back'. **Simon** to agree a date with Anthony in the New Year.

- 7.4 Thanks were extended to all the workers and especially those who have worked on the shelter.

8 Woodland Management Report

- 8.1 Simon reported that work is progressing on the production of a new management plan. Grants from the Forestry Commission have now largely come to an end so we will need to look at new sources of income to fund forestry work.
- 8.2 Over the next few months we will be producing a Constraints and Opportunities Plan for the woods which will identify areas where work is required, and areas requiring special protection. The plan will be circulated for comments and feedback.

9 Dormouse Report

- 9.1 Jen's report was tabled. The dormouse year began in March with the installation of 12 more nest boxes between the leat and the river path in Broad Wood. There are now 52 boxes on that side of the river so it can be registered as a new site for the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme.
- 9.2 Two main areas of activity were recorded this year, one around the top of the old Eiger path under the Douglas and near the top of Treovis Wood. Both woods recorded ten dormice each. Across two of the three original sites numbers are up this year after two poor years.
- 9.3. Jen was thanked for her ongoing dormouse work. Proposed Anne seconded Cathy.

10 Events for 2017/2018

- 10.1 Suggested events for the coming year:
- Tree dressing
 - Fungus Foray – Jen to organise
 - Moth evening
 - Dawn chorus walk above Broad Wood
 - Drawing Day
 - Quiz at the Manor Rilla Mill to raise funds
 - Con Brio Concert at Linkinhorne Parish Hall

11 Election of Officers

- 11.1 The current committee were elected enbloc. Proposed by Anne and seconded by Cheryl. The following were duly elected

| Position | Elected |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chair | Simon Humphreys |
| Secretary | Catherine Brunsden |
| Treasurer | Laurence Smith |
| Tools Manager | Mike Todd |
| Working Party Manager | Simon Humphreys |
| Membership Secretary | Fran Jones |
| Web Manager | Mike Todd |
| Health and Safety | Vacant (proposed to ask John Sudell) |
| Artist in Residence | Helen Skidmore |
| Newsletter/Link/ Facebook | Anne Hughes |
| Co-opted Member | Ele Waters |
| Co-opted Member | Jacqui Rukin (to be confirmed) |
| Co-opted Member | Jen Bousfield |
| Co-opted Member | Pete Bousfield |

12 Items to Discuss at Future Stara Executive Meetings

- 12.1 Obtaining a weighted banner for use at events. **Anne** to investigate costs.
- 12.2 **Website** – discuss whether to terminate the site but keep the domain name. A link from the Woodland Trust could link to our Facebook page. **Mike** to check the renewal date for maintaining the current web site and the cost of setting up a professional site.
- 12.3 Increasing Stara membership. A day leafleting in the woods. Sending out a newsletter to members (Link article could be e mailed). What else can be doing for members?
- 12.4 Quiz at Manor

13 Meeting dates

- 13.1 It was agreed that the next AGM should be held on Sunday 4 November 2018 at 10.15 in Linkinhorne Parish Hall at Upton Cross followed by lunch at the Caradon Inn.
- 13.2 Stara Festive Working Party Saturday January 6. Agreed to walk around the paths and discuss view point.
- 13.3 Next Stara Executive Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at Rose Cottage, Bathpool.